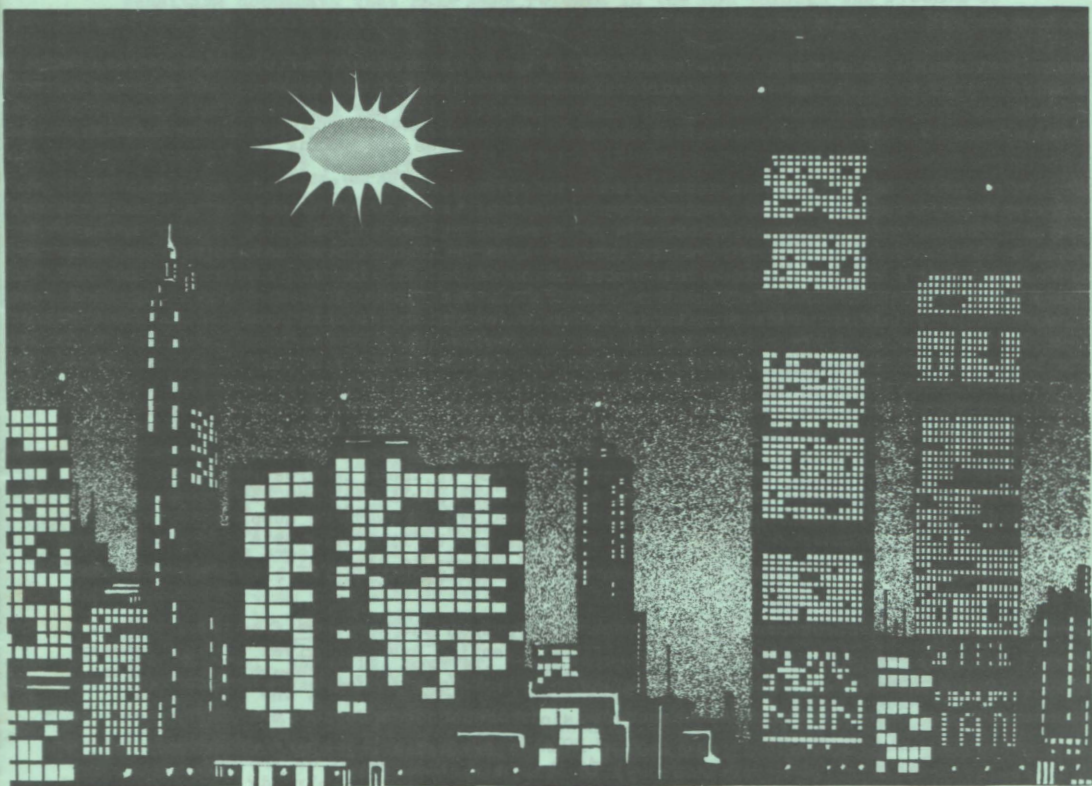


NORTHERN NEWS

UFO



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IN THIS ISSUE: -

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The NIC Prize (Page 4); Entente Cordiale (Page 6); Media Matters (Page 7); IFO Corner (Pages 7-9); Update on the Rendlesham Forest 'UFO Crash' (Pages 9-10); The Paul Bennett Story (Pages 10-11); Brief cases from Durham, N.Yorks, W.Yorks, E.Midlands, N.Ireland (Pages 11-14); CASE HISTORY 'The Silent Vulcan' (Movie) (Pages 14-15)

J. R. COMMENTS

UFO studies by official agencies have long been very controversial. A few weeks ago I dug deep in to this problem in writing a series (due Summer) for The Unexplained. It provided me with the ideal opportunity to place the matter in perspective.

I suppose we are all guilty of making presumptions about certain aspects of the enigma in order to suit our theories. Whilst I have never been guilty to the point of completely ignoring this question I have often stated my conviction that it is both improbable that UFOs are spacecraft and that world governments are hiding such a fantastic truth. Certainly I could never honestly state that no cases offer provocative hints that UFOs might, on occasion, be actual craft. But we must go by the totality of evidence...which would appear to be against the idea that nuts and bolts alien vehicles are making intrusions within our environment (which, I might add, is a very different thing from alien intrusions, per se).

However, all this said, my writing of The Unexplained series has to a point caused me to reassess my attitude. For it is undeniable that there have been a number of rather interesting developments in recent years.

Let us briefly look at the position in this country. Since 1978 I have undertaken a running debate with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) department which handles UFO sightings (alongside, we are told, low flying aircraft). They have continually advised me that their only brief is to investigate reports for their defence implications, that they have never found any, and that (quote) they "certainly have no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on this planet." Yet their data-net for gathering reports is so good that in 1981, for example, they collected five times as many cases as BUFORA, Britain's premier amateur society investigating on a national scale.

I have proposed to the MOD that it would be in their interests to open the files to scientific scrutiny and re-educate the public to send cases to a science institute rather than defence establishments. In this way all suspicion of a cover up would be removed. Recently I have been backed by Bill Chalker's breakthrough in Australia, where during 1982 he obtained access to their Air Force files and was allowed to reflect their content within the UFO literature. Bill has endorsed my calls to our own MOD.

Possibly influenced by this Australian action the MOD have finally relented. Whilst this news is not secret no media attention has been given to it (a wholly good thing) and I have not mentioned this openly before, although I have known about it for several months, because I did not wish to upset the balance and cause a reversal of this welcome decision. Silly media stories might have done that and I would advise you all now not to make a public issue out of this news. As of January 20 1983 I have been given a public statement on the matter (see P. 16) and informed that the files might well be in the open already but for the intervention of the Falklands war. The MOD are presently deciding the best means by which to make their voluminous data available and have promised to let me know as soon as a decision is taken. I will speedily bring this to your attention.

Personally I find the MOD position quite reasonable. But I am well aware that others (who claim to know, but do not justify such claims) insist that a very high-level cover-up occurs. The MOD department, on this basis, may be a front which knows no more about the matter than we do. Lady Falkender, who has written a foreword to Timothy Good's current book about George Adamski, says there is more she knows she cannot tell. Tim himself has hinted to me at knowledge he will not openly divulge. Lord Clanoarty and other members of his all-party House of Lords UFO Study Group are insistent that there is a secret agreement between nations which has held back knowledge gained about UFOs. Most prominent amongst their members is Lord Hill-Norton, former Admiral of the Fleet. He told me why he believes in a cover-up but allegedly does not know of it first-hand (one might then ask: if he doesn't who does?)

It is difficult for any fair person just to dismiss all this support. And I have certainly had personal experience on several occasions where British witnesses have revealed military jet chases and radar trackings and spoke of the

JR Comments Cont...

subsequent investigation covered by the Official Secrets Act. They are very consistant. And are we to suppose that of these cases all were rejected as possessing no interest? And even if they were, why the continued monitor?

Yet Britain is one of the least evidential places to look for a cover-up! What are we to make of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI memo demanding access to "all crashed discs" because the Army had grabbed the last one! And that is one of the less sensitive documents that have been released in the USA through the Freedom of Information Act. Hundreds of others are held back, even by the US Supreme Court (who themselves could not be cleared to see them) because of their security implications. And why, since the US ceased official interest in UFOs in 1969, have reports on most intriguing cases been circulated regularly to a list that includes the White House and the Pentagon? We need some answers to these questions.

In France during 1974 the Minister of Defence told the public that if they could see the data coming in through the Gendarmerie they would be very disturbed! France then set up, GEPAN, the world's only full-time government funded UFO team. In 1979, Dr Pierre Guerin, one of its leaders published a lengthy article in FSR proclaiming that in 'our view' (GEPAN?) UFOs were the product of an alien technology so advanced it was incomprehensible. That, sure enough, there were no ETs or spaceships. The aliens lived here. Indeed they ran planet earth! The world governments knew this, he said, but had no idea what to do about it. Guerin has not been heard from since and Dr Alain Esterle took over. He has made virtually no public comment and during 1982 French ufologists made known their anger at the sudden clamping up of the team. Did Guerin say too much? (See Again P.16). When I told French ufologists what Esterle said to one British ufologist (who told me immediately, with Esterle still present but saying no more) they did not believe it. Esterle said simply that the work of GEPAN was proving the alien origin of UFOs!

The fact is that any honest review of all the facts (of which these are just a few) is bound to leave one highly suspicious. I can only ponder whether my efforts to defuse public interest in an alien hypothesis has not played into somebody's hands. Quite independent of cover-up allegations work for my last two books (to appear later this year) has moved me towards a greater acceptability of the Gurnea style alien hypothesis. I am still running away from it somewhat sceptically. But I am not sure if I really should maintain my defensive barriers.

We must view the British files with total dispassion. Making our minds up before hand would be foolish. And, of course, there may be a wholly rational answer to the problems we face. And if you think you know what it means write and let me know so we can all share it. However, I can certainly say that I am now more willing to be open minded on this question. And that, for me, is quite a step to take!

Fenny Randles

NEWS ROUND UP

:: The BUFORA files and archives are now being set up in their new home where
 there will be access to the thousands of cases, the books, and the vast library of
 taped lectures. This new service to researchers should be a great boon and is to
 be coordinated by Robin Lindsey. The address of the new BUFORA ARCHIVES is:-
 40 Jones Drive Whittlesey PETERBOROUGH PE7 2HW Tel: (073120) 326

Both visits & accomodation for perusal, and photocopy facilities for post, will be offered.

:: Conference news...BUFORA begin to take bookings for their August international
 event (with a star-studded line-up) on April 8. You are advised to book early. On
 Sat: SEPTEMBER 24 1983 (2.30-6.30) they will also stage their celebratory 21st
 anniversary conference at Kensington Library, London. A nice programme of lectures,
 films, quizzes, and competitions is planned. Cost £2, members, £3 non-members (to inc.
 buffet tea). Book via:- 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS.

But if you fancy further afield and "parlez Francais" how about the French UFO Federation event on May 7/8 1983, at Lyon. Cost around £20 (without travel) c/o Richard VARRAULT 71 Rue du Dauphin, 69003 Lyon, FRANCE.

[illegible]

THE NIC PRIZE :

Through the RICs, this committee (which oversees the administration of the new Code of Practice...all Accredited Investigators of the NIC having to sign to it) involves many of the active local groups in Britain. But it is our hope that the NIC become the focal point for mutual cooperation of all independent local groups. Everyone of you is invited to participate and send representatives and contribute in whatever way you wish. No strings are attached, unless you want to follow the procedures which the NIC itself will adopt (and each independent group by attending will be able to help mould these policies). The aim of the NIC is to bring the NUFON style spirit of cooperation, and mutual working-together, onto a more formal basis in terms of national investigation. You do not need to be affiliated with BUFORA to participate. If your group wishes to involve itself with the NIC please write to myself (Jenny Randles).

The BUFORA council, at my recommendation, have decided to adopt a NIC prize, as from 1983. This prize will not be a vast sum of money, but will be ufologically valuable and unique. It will also accompany the deserved recognition awarded to the annual victor. This prize will be awarded by the NIC, en-bloc, who will decide upon the winner at the end of each year. It will be for the best case investigation of 1983. This will not mean the best case, or the highest-strangeness event. It may be no more than a LITS. It will be for the best completed report, which conveys the work done and illustrates investigational competence of the highest order. It will, if you like, be a sort of British 'Investigator of the Year' award. Naturally the decision can only be taken on cases submitted to the NIC (although not necessarily from a BUFORA member) for inclusion in the BUFORA archives (see p.3)

BJOPRA has also agreed that, starting with the first opportunity in early 1984, one issue of one of its publications will be devoted to publishing the 'best of' work for 1983. That is a detailed summary of the winning investigation, taking pride of place, plus the runners-up and other acclaimed offerings, as decided by the NIC.

I hope that you agree with me that this new move (for which I have agreed to donate the prize for 1983, but for which any other offers would certainly be appreciated in addition) will assist the efforts to improve the quality of UFO investigation in Britain which BUFORA, the NIC, and other groups are making.



JOURNAL TAP Jan 1983 (BUFORA: 30 Vermont Rd London SE19 3SR) (Inc.with subs)
Ufology as a profession, Dr J Allen Hynek...a call for a professional code of ethics
for ufology (!) plus other thoughts...What kind of people join a UFO group, Shirley
McIVER reviews her social questionnaire on BUFORA members. Important results...and
also ball lightning cases & Peter Hill describing Project Rainbow, the new joint
BUFORA - CUFOS research initiative. Good issue, which is slightly delayed (as
Nigel Watson pointed out to me, because Journal TAP could not be published during
a water strike!)

PROBE REPORT Jan 1983 (£3.40, 4 issues, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol BS3 2PD)
Now inclusive of EUPORA subscription alongside JTAP (above) and EUPORA BULLETIN.
The alien amongst us, Martin Shipp...a terrific and instructive tale of investigation
tenacity, as Swindon group SCUFORI track down a man-in-black that threatens to
disrupt their group. No UFO group should fail to read this cautionary account.

FSR Vol 28 No 3 (£6.90, 6 issues; FSR, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent, ME19 6JZ)
Gordon Creighton's first issue as temporary editor until Charles Bowen recovers
(God's speed Charles). Highly 'cover-up' orientated and packed with D-Notices, MOD
machinations and an update of Len Stringfields 'pickled green men' tales. Gordon
seems to think it a waste of time expecting the MOD to release files (see editorial)

FOR YOUR PERUSAL -

Major articles elsewhere

For Your Perusal cont...

UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA Vol 3 No 4 (\$12 Aus, 6 issues, PO Box 229, Prospect, S.A. 5082)*
Excellent glossy 32pp mag well worth seeing. Socorro, New Mexico- Revisited, KE &
RL Firestone (with Bill Spaulding)...Re-investigation of the classic Lonnie Zamora
1964 CE3, in which evidence that he saw a secret US test vehicle is provided. GSW
(the US group) support the hypothesis that the ufo phenomenon is the product of
the CIA to hide their own testing of top secret technology. The evidence needs a low

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER Vol 7 No 5 (PO Box 1621, Lima, Ohio 45802 USA)
The publication of Hynek's CUFOS, inc. as part of their subscription. Glossy mag.
Usually worth a read. CE 3s New Dimensions In Investigations; Richard Sigismund...
A new abduction case, plus hypnotic regression, with commentary on the problems
this creates for the investigator of such events.

[illegible]

BIBLIOGRAPHY: EXOBIOLOGY & UFOLOGY Published by the Australian Centre for
UFO Studies; Nov 1982. Edited by John Prytz. (For address see magazine above) (*)

A massive 115 pp printed dossier, which lists books and articles on the two topics named. Two-thirds of the data deal with exobiology but about 1200 of the listed references refer to UFOs. Full information is given and there are both name and title indexes. Unquestionably a vast amount of work has gone into its production and it is listed under major headings (eg UFOs & Theology) to facilitate research. However, I think it might have been more valuable as a UFOs only reference with more cross-referencing to specific topics. Ufology is after all a vast subject and merely to have a list of 250 UFO books, for example, whilst interesting, is of somewhat limited use. But perhaps it will be used as a source for a more detailed future issue; wherein some of the omissions might be corrected. For example (not wishing to be egotistical!) the name Randles does not feature; so my three books have been missed. Whilst they may not be the best known on earth it tends to make me somewhat suspicious about how complete the rest of the catalogue is. Even so a valiant effort that will undoubtedly benefit a number of researchers. No price given.

BOOK OF THE MOMENT :

THE GREEN STONE By Martin Keatman & Graham Phillips LL
Neville Spearman, H/b, 224 pp, 1983, £6.95



This is one of those books impossible to summarise without creating the distinct impression it is a vast nonsense. Indeed, even if you read it (which I suggest you should) your credibility horizon will need to be super-elastic. If you had difficulty believing the events in Alien Contact, for example, then you must be prepared for quite a struggle swallowing this new tale.

Many of you will know the gist of the early phases of this magical mystery tour, through Andy Collins own version of events (The Sword and the Stone). But the book takes matters well beyond Andy's booklet and tells more of the historical background to what appears to have been the psychic treasure hunt of the century.

To put things in a very small nutshell the story begins in October 1979, when psychics and non-psychics (including co-author, psychologist Graham Phillips) began to receive impressions that an important task awaited a group in the English midlands which involved the discovery of a 'green stone'. These fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle and how they followed the clues to the fantastic discovery is the main thrust of the book.

You may be wondering what this has to do with UFOs! Well they are peripherally involved and the mythic features of the sword, stone, magic etc, involved here, and yet apparently transformed into 'reality' (if such a word exists anymore - I begin to doubt it!) mirror ufology closely. However, more significant still is that all the main participants are ufologists (Andy Collins & Martin Keatman especially well known to long-time readers of this magazine). And probably the two most central figures to the saga are Gaynor & Marion Sunderland; this book therefore being a sort of sequel to their UFO adventures in Alien Contact.

I am not intending to here suggest what this all means (I have written an introduction to the book itself). But it means something of importance, that I think is certain. But read it and form your own opinion - and let me know.

ENTENTE CORDIALE...The UFO / OVNI conference in Boulogne

The world is becoming a smaller place, although we British do at times tend to forget it! That there is another thriving community of ufologists a bare twenty miles off the Kent coast may not be well appreciated, perhaps because of the language barrier (although most French can speak English a darn sight better than most English can speak French) Nevertheless a quick check of your memory file, through names like Michel, Vallée, Poher & Guérin will instantly prove that these 'froggies' have contributed much to our subject; indeed probably as a nation more than anyone else. As Paul Devereux keeps reminding me, for example, it was they (and not Persinger) who really discovered the UFO-fault line connection. And Hilary Ewans has often chastised us for not being 'au fait' regarding the superb French literature on UFOs, from writers whose names unjustly mean little in the English speaking world.

And so M. Evans decided to organise, with French companions, this little excursion over the sea to the fishy port of Boulogne-Sur-Mer. Nine intrepid Britishers made the voyage and were heavily outnumbered by the French, not surprisingly. But the UK mob was nicely representative of ufology over here and were introduced in glowing terms (in French) (although whether Nigel Watson liked being called, a lone beacon in the thirsty desert of north-east England, I'm not sure!). Hilary continued his humorous touches with the production of a masterpiece, "Le Spotting d'un UFO" which I wish I could reproduce here; it being (in 'Franglais') one of the funniest UFO items ever (eg... M... "Cet objet. Comme un oval de silver" ; MMe: Je ne le vois pas; M. "Regarde-là !"; MMe: C'est un blob sur le wind-screen.) Magic stuff that set everyone in the right frame of mind!

Certainly this was two days of fun on a sunny but cold February weekend; a chance to break the ice (literally!). Over huge helpings of food and flasks of wine the sea-barrier evaporated and everyone enjoyed themselves, learning a lot about one another's work. But there were more formal presentations too. All we British had our turns (some in French, some in English, most in bits of both!) telling of our work (Harry Harris on regressions, Robin Lindsay on his instrumental monitor station for recording UFOs, Shirley McIver on her social questionnaire research, Nigel Watson on the UK airship waves of 1909 and 1913, myself on UK investigations and so on). And in a non-stop packed programme most of the French had a go too (often in pretty good English). Only rarely was the translation beyond most of us.

We heard much about investigations (in France, Belgium & Switzerland); learnt of the GEPAN situation, saw that the UFO report decline was acute over there as here, and heard much sceptical (but not debunking) talk. For in general they are much more cautious about the nature of their ufology.

At the end of the two days we were all exhausted, but happy. They had learnt a little of us (although I must take issue with Hilary's circular on British ufology in which he lists five selected regional groups, four of whom were not represented, as being the most active... whereas MUFORA had two members there in the nine British and did not get mentioned! Tut, tut!) For our part we had collated opinions about the literature over there. I came back with many useful documents; which I will try to summarise in future; eg material from the French UFO Federation (a bit like MUFON) including an interesting paper on 'agression levels' within the phenomenon.

Probably one of the best French language magazines which (if you can read it) you may like to get hold of, is called OVNI PRESENCE (About £2 per issue from AESV Suisse, case postale 342, CH 1800, Vevey, Switzerland) A 28pp glossy to Northern UFO News format, which always has interesting cases and interviews of an advanced mind.

Finally, I must mention the 'European Working Team'; which is a group of close encounter researchers trying to break down the barriers and exchanging articles, notes etc (in English) through a newsletter. The team includes myself and Peter Rogerson (UK) and elsewhere Ballester-Olmos, Bonabot, Coste, Gamard, Liljegren, Overal, Troadec, verga, Bloecher & Basterfield from 7 other countries. More active researchers are needed. Details available from:- Leopold I laan, 141, 8000-Brugge, BELGIUM.

In summation I hope, now we have made a start, this is the first of at least annual Anglo-French meetings, since if we next time get down to specifics of cases and research there is bound to be much we can learn from one another.

[illegible]

MEDIA MATTERS -

A look at UFOs in the public eye



This has been a good two months for the phenomenon, although I am not so sure whether UFOs are becoming more respectable in scientific terms or whether we as a whole are becoming more liberal in what we accept as science.

Certainly there has been a change for the better at the helm of New Scientist, the popular reflector of modern science. Not so long ago I recall the outcry at the inclusion of an article by scientists on telepathy. A serious piece on UFOs seemed as far off as ET's home planet. But that changed, to a point, when three years ago James Oberg's winning entry in the Cutty Sark competition was published. However, this was practically totally negative, denying any reality to the UFO phenomenon.

Peter Warrington and myself have aimed to get a serious UFO article into New Scientist for a long while and with the signs that began showing late last year (pieces on the Loch Ness Monster, the Dragon Project and megalith research being featured) we made another attempt and this time succeeded. 'The Neglected science of UFOs' (Feb 10 1983, pp380-381) merely ties together some research by scientists and makes the plea that there is a scientific side that needs exploration, it being cross disciplinary to many subjects. The reaction to this article, in terms of offers of help from scientists, has been small but encouraging. However, if you need to solicit the assistance of a scientist you should fish the article out of your library, photocopy it and send it to him. No longer can he deny that ufology is at least partly scientific. The New Scientist said so!

Another important article for ufologists in this same respected journal came in the Jan 6 1983 issue (pp12-16). "Hypnosis on Trial" by Gail Vines & Michael Barnes takes apart the question of regression hypnosis. Although UFOs are not mentioned (the purpose being the use of hypnosis in law courts to retrieve memories of witnesses to crimes) the importance to close encounter 4 cases is obvious and paramount. The whole article must be read by any thinking ufologist; this being a typical quote..."prominent psychologists and psychiatrists are alarmed. The very process of hypnosis, they claim, can create convincing pseudo-memories which no-one, not even the person hypnotised, can distinguish from real ones." The overall conclusion is that hypnosis should only be used as a basis to provide clues, and then under very strict conditions. It is a very long way from being the provider of absolute truth.

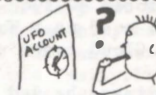
Some national papers picked up the New Scientist stories; including the Manchester Evening News (Feb 9). The Bradford Telegraph & Argus, Jan 19, gave in "Lights in the sky are of this earth", beneath the obligatory photo of ET, a very fine resume of the EARTH LIGHTS theory that must have been culled from Paul Devereux's book although he gets not a mention in the lengthy article (Neel and Vallee do somehow?) Whereas, at the other extreme, a two page glossy article in the South Wales Echo (Feb 14) "ETA still in doubt" (Get it??) succeeded in displaying the views of its author (Dam O'Neill) beautifully, by mentioning everything but reasonable UFO answers. And so we got the parade of Patrick Moore being attacked for not believing UFOs to be spaceships, Randall Jones-Pugh's 'demons', the Aetherius Society, and Peter Paget's underground bases; he being the "acknowledged Anglo-American expert on the paranormal" (Oh yeh!) The Sunderland family got a garbled mention, but of course no word about the more mundane theories in Alien Contact; their stories being used to prove some peculiar hypothesis about goblins from outer space! (I think!)

So perhaps not all has changed after all.

IF0 CORNER - With the investigator in mind

SKY NOTES (April & May 1983)

Compiled by: Peter Warrington FRAS



Investigators may care to note the following prominent meteors recorded by the Manchester Astronomical Society for 1982. Check them against your case files..... (All times GMT) 02 APR (23.16)(Green/White fireball); 17 JUL (00.54)(White train; 4 secs); 19 JUL (01.36)(Blue, very slow, exploded in red sparks)(NB The Darwin UFO case that night!); 25 JUL (00.19)(Yel/Or, split into orange pieces); 13 AUG (23.30)(Fast but left orange train for 15 secs); 14 AUG (Several fireballs, long duration trains & explosions; eg 00.16; 00.52;)(NB The Abram CE 1 - see last issue); 23 OCT (23.43) (Yellow; 5 sec train).

SKY NOTES Cont...

Note how two of the best cases of 1982 may not be unconnected with the above list. Both should be reassessed to some degree in the light of this new information..... and if they disappear into the realms of the IFO, what is left??? (Jenny Randles)

NB Times are GMT 24 hr clock. Latitude 52 N is a line through Milton Keynes & Ipswich; 56 N through Edinburgh. Liverpool is approx. 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

<u>April</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rise</u>	52 N	56 N	<u>Set</u>	52 N	56 N
SUN	1	5.38		5.34	18.32		18.36
	7	5.24		5.18	18.42		18.48
	14	5.08		5.00	18.54		19.02
	21	4.53		4.42	19.06		19.17
	28	4.38		4.25	19.18		19.31
MOON	1	23.14		23.33	7.29		7.13
	7	3.42		4.05	11.56		11.34
	14	6.01		5.53	20.21		20.33
	21	11.31		11.11	2.58		3.19
	28	20.53		21.10	5.29		5.16
<u>May</u> SUN	1	4.32		4.18	19.25		19.37
	7	4.21		4.05	19.33		19.49
	14	4.09		3.51	19.44		20.02
	21	3.59		3.38	19.55		20.15
	28	3.51		3.28	20.04		20.27
MOON	1	23.14 ((on Apr))	30th	23.40	7.00 ((on May))	1st	6.33
	7	2.58		3.10	13.05		12.54
	14	5.18		4.57	22.02		22.27
	21	13.24		13.19	2.22		2.29
	28	22.03		22.31	4.55		4.30

(NB: The moonset times for Jan 21, see last issue, are in error. They should be 00.24 (52 N) and 00.30 (56 N) both on the morning of January 22)

Phases of the moon: The moon will be New (N) and Full (F) on: 13 APR (07.58)(N); 27 APR (06.31)(F); 12 MAY (19.25)(N); 26 MAY (18.48)(F) (Please reverse last issues)

Prominent planets... Venus: Very bright starlike object at low elevation in the west for several hours after sunset (up to 23.00 GMT, end of May). Close to the crescent moon on the evenings of 15/16 APR... Jupiter... bright starlike object in the south during the morning (Apr) and for most of the night (May); on 26 MAY the full moon passes in front of the planet and for some time before and after both will appear in close proximity... Saturn... Bright, but not as bright as Jupiter. Visible as yellowish starlike object for most of night in SE, moving west, rising 20.00 GMT (Apr) but progressively earlier during May.

Meteor Showers... Expected maximum April 12, the Virginids, about 10 per hour max. Around April 22 the Lyrids are expected to be good, ie many and bright, 15 per hour max. Showers during May but none expected to be spectacular or prominent.

SPOT THE IFO... Test your powers of investigation.

On October 30 1982 the witness, Mr IH (aged 20) was riding his motorcycle on the B 591 road near Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire. Time was 00.30 and it was cold and damp. Cloud cover was eight-tenths and the moon was seen in a different part of the sky.

The witness headed west at about 50 MPH passing Beacon Hill, a large open area and plantation. To his right he saw a close-knit ball of orange light that seemed to have a greenish tinge. It was elevation 20 degrees over the Hill and seemed to be stationary, although he could only watch for about 5 secs without looking at the greasy road surface. When he looked back the light had gone.

IH is a former investigator and police cadet, now a security officer. His visual expertise is considered above average by the investigation group (UFO Research Midlands). The witness went to the Hill immediately after the event but was turned away by an army landrover and 4 soldiers... What were they hiding??? (See over)

SPOT THE IFO (Answer) Please turn the page upside down... 

BRIEF CASES

:- Some Current Investigations

UPDATE ON RENDLESHAM FOREST

Whatever happened at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in late December 1980, it is for certain one of this country's biggest ever UFO mysteries. I am well aware that not a few serious investigators are willing to dismiss the tale almost out of hand because of its fantastic overtones. But the volume of evidence that points towards something having occurred is to my mind very difficult to refute. The alleged story of a UFO crash in these woods beside the USAF base at Woodbridge is not merely reliant on the continued valiant investigative efforts of Dot Street and Brenda Butler locally; for the radar side of the story and one American supportive witness came forward fully independent of their sterling investigations. MUFORA member (and lawyer) Harry Harris has also spoken to one of Brenda and Dot's principal witnesses.

I will not reiterate the story here; readers being referred to the NUFON Case History (Jan 1982), republished in FSR Vol 27 No 6, or my article on the affair in The Unexplained, or indeed Dot's article for BUFORA Bulletin. I am here concerned with updating a few points from work that has occurred over the past year, and in some senses arisen out of this publicity. Brenda and Dot have again born the main brunt.

Their principle efforts have been directed towards trying to find the farmer, who it was said had seen the UFO come down in the woods and had reported this to the USAF base. If you recall two men wearing dark suits (taken to be government officials) had visited local farmers a couple of days after the incident making enquiries about it. Brenda and Dot have done much interviewing of farm folk in the area, several of whom were aware of the 'aircrash' and all of whom guided them in the same direction. The name of the farmer allegedly involved was given as Mr S. (I have this name on file).

Dot called Mr S and had a conversation about the event, in which he confirmed that the story was basically true "but I don't remember all what happened, but I can tell you bits of it." He was most concerned about his cattle, he said, who were badly disturbed by the passage of the object. He was not sure whether it was the noise of the object or the brilliant lighting (both unusual) which had led to the upset. Dot, feeling no doubt very relieved to have found this civilian witness at last, asked for an appointment and was promised a return call. There then followed several days of 'run-around' during which Dot and Brenda spoke to the family (but principally the farm secretary) several times being promised a return call but never getting it. Eventually, Captain S, the father and farm manager, was spoken to. He refused any cooperation, told them (abruptly) to go away, and said that he and his family knew nothing of the event. He persisted in this even when it was pointed out that the farmer, his son, had already fully confirmed the story.

From investigations it turned out that Captain S was a quite well-to-do man in the community and a councillor. He had a reputation for being an awkward so-and-so. However, most unwilling to let this go, Brenda and Dot went to the farm some days later (July 28 1982) where they were given the runabout again by the secretary but happened to overhear a voice that was evidently Captain S. So they approached him, whereupon he continually told them to go away saying repeatedly "I don't want any more to do with it" whilst also denying any knowledge both for himself and his family. It was the definite impression of the investigators that this man did know of the incident.

Following the FSR article there has been considerable interest in the case from the American media, although none at all from Britain! I personally have dealt with calls from a journal in Florida, one in New York and a TV programme in Los Angeles. Brenda and Dot have spoken with them too, but we have all been unwilling to cooperate too far on a one-way basis. Even so we did obtain the addresses of two people who were on the base in December 1980, who supposedly knew of the affair but who have now

CASE OF THE RUNAWAY BALLOON...Medium Definition Possible Balloon
Case 8240: Mid August 1982 19.30 Denby Dale, W.Yorks Inv: MUFORA

Mr GW had just said goodbye to his son and was in his garden on a pleasant sunny evening. Towards the west he saw a speck of light which seemed to be soaring upwards. He presumed it to be a hang-glider and made comment to his wife (who was in the bedroom above the garden) that he did not know such craft made flights in their area. She had difficulty seeing it until it began to move in an easterly direction towards them. As it picked up speed it took on a bubble shape and they then thought in terms of a helicopter. However, with his wife now in the garden watching too it passed the southern end travelling at some speed (in excess of 100 MPH estimated) and silently. It was so plainly in view that it was clearly not a conventional craft and resembled a 'distended stalkless mushroom', with a diameter guessed at 40/50 feet and moving at a height of 1000 feet. The colour was bright silver, reflecting the setting sun, but the base was dark. As it moved out of sight over hills it banked to the right and changed course slightly. The witnesses half convinced themselves afterwards that it was a runaway balloon, but find this difficult to equate with the facts. This may well be a possibility, but it is impossible to tell as the exact date is unknown.



SPACE INVADERS AT THE CURRY HOUSE...Medium Definition Unidentified
Case 8301: January 12 1983 23.10 Bradford, West Yorks Inv: Nigel Mortimer

Michael Brett, a 26 year old bricklayer, had gone for a take-away at his local Curry House on Manchester Road, near Wyke (scene of many encounters during a 1981 flap reported in Case Histories, April 1982). Unfortunately, back at the bus-stop he realised as he glanced at his watch that the bus had gone. Whilst deciding what to do he saw, in the southern sky above the hills, a very strange object. This moved steadily westwards and passed below the postulated hill-line, from 30 degrees elevation to zero in about 30 seconds. It made no sound. The object was oval shaped with a solid centre but surrounded by an aura or glow that tapered out into the sky around it. As it moved out of view this aura changed from orange to red. The edges of the oval tapered also, giving a 'classic flying saucer shape' to the image. Apparent size was that of a two-pence piece at arms length. After the sighting he rushed back to the Curry House, from where he ordered a taxi. Here he told of his experience and found a man and his girlfriend on the Space Invaders machine! They said they had seen it too and had almost lost control of their car in utter amazement. Nigel discovered that NATO had a major exercise on that night, but they claimed to have no aircraft in that area at the time. Leeds/Bradford airport closes at 22.00. A brilliant fireball meteor appeared in the south the following night which may, or may not, be relevant.



THE GREAT MIDLANDS FIREBALL...A UFO Research Midlands case which shows how the ufologist can do serious work even with an IFO.

On July 30 1981, at about 22.45, a spectacular fireball meteor passed across Britain. It was seen from many parts (sightings existing from the north-west and Kent) but the best viewing conditions were in the East Midlands where the local media carried a number of accounts. Whilst suspecting a fireball explanation the local investigative groups (later to form UFOFM) appealed for and collated data, recognising its might be of scientific value. This paid off and 37 separate reports have been placed on file in papers by John Barden & David Clarke. A couple of these, widely separate in time from the known appearance, may be isolated meteor events. The majority, fairly accurately reflect the passage of the object (a greenish cone followed by a yellowy plume of light, visible for perhaps 10 seconds). Some serious errors did occur, although isolated eg one woman who reported otherwise well said the meteor was in view four minutes! Mark Brown also investigated a case where a fire was said to have been caused by sparks from the UFO. The Fire Brigade investigation found the real cause. But most

The Great Midlands fireball cont...

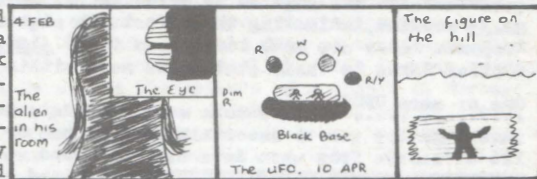
interesting was a report (drawn up by Mark Brown) of the investigation by he, John Barden & Graham Hall of an impact crater found a few days after the fireball in Coventry. The couple who found it had returned from holiday to see their garden cabbage patch decimated by it. Slight radiation traces were recorded in the crater during a very thorough site analysis and one of two heavy metallic samples removed from a dozen inches depth gave a reading on a metal detector. Impressed by their scientific endeavours the Geology Department of Leicester University were highly cooperative. Their study of the samples proved them not to be meteoritic, but (they guessed) road metal. How they impacted into the garden remains a total mystery.

This is a model scientific enquiry, and the production of data on a multi-witness identified sighting is in fact very useful as a cross-check of normal witness perceptions in an abnormal situation. For my forthcoming book UFO REALITY I did a study of 100 MUFON reports (largely collected by MUFONIG) of the December 31 1978 satellite re-entry. The results (as you will see) were instructive. I intend to do a further study of this fireball data to act as a comparison.

AN IRISH TALE

This account arrived anonymously from a correspondent (clearly a young man with a penchant for reading comic books, and a regular subscriber to The Unexplained and The Movie). The post address was Co. Tyrone and from the account it is evident he also lives near the border. He did not leave an address and so his story stands or falls by the information he passed on through his letter; but this was very detailed and included RI forms and several sketches. Here, for what it is worth, is his story.

(1) February 4 1982... After watching the movie Halloween on TV he fell asleep easily but awake to hear a strange noise ("like a saw sawing thin card") and noted the bedroom was different (slightly distorted) (a typical first stage OOBEE feeling). Deciding he was dreaming he fell back asleep but reawoke a while later and saw a shadowy figure in the corner of the room. As he tried to rise to view it he found he was paralysed. But with effort he did press himself up, terrified, and saw a male figure, dark, small, without a neck and yet with long hair. This came towards him and turned sideways exposing two large faceted eyes which widened and closed and had a black key hole pupil. It made a breathing sound like a cat purring. One hand was pointed towards him and as the being moved this away the paralysis began to fade. The entity blended into the wall and vanished. At this the room brightened and became normal. He recovered use of his limbs in a few minutes and found the time was 07.55.



(2) April 10 1982... At 11.45 pm he decided to attend Midnight mass. It was a clear, starry night. Looking at the sky (for UFOs!) he saw a 'planet' and above that a series of flashing red, white & yellow lights. Below these was a large, but faint, red light, silhouetted against which was the outline of two 'humanoids' (one large, one small). The object appeared to be rotating and moved across the sky in a jerky path, taking five minutes to vanish. At the base was a dark egg shape. There was no sound and he is positive this was a spaceship. Earlier he had obtained and read the issue of The Unexplained about the Maier 'hoax' photos and kept wondering if this was one of the Placidean spaceships. A few days later he saw it again on top of a mountain. Below was a large red patch in front of which a giant humanoid passed, raising a sail! It was so far away that to be seen the figure must have been gigantic!

(3) April 20 1982... If the foregoing was not enough then the last encounter (which he claims was the most scary) will convince you this chap has strange fantasies. He claims he awoke between 03.00 and 05.00 to a 'silent scream' that was very loud but not there... you know' (I don't!) There were two aliens this time; a small one (stood on his bed) and a 'big lumpy one' that had his head in the witnesses mouth (which had somehow grown very large). They were chatting to one another in a sound like ringing bells. He tried to talk, but no words came out and he was paralysed again. Pointing to his dressing table he thought the word 'Camera' over and over but the obviously shy alien shook his head. The witness apologises for not taking a picture!

An Irish Tale cont...

The witness does not seem to know how this last encounter ended. These events sound rather like dreams or hypnagogic hallucinations, but needed mentioning in view of their UFO context. He adds, "Normally I'd put these down to a dream but after what happened to me I believe these things really happened. In fact I know they did."

CASE HISTORY

THE CASE OF THE SILENT VULCAN

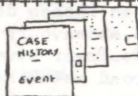
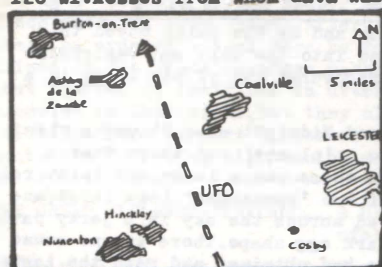
Multi-witness encounter with movie-film. Inv: Mark Brown & Graham Hall (UFORM)

Date: October 23 1978 Around 19.00 Various locations around Leicester.

This account will be a necessarily very condensed description of a complex case with which East Midlands investigators have grappled for four years. This is because of the mass of testimony to indicate that something, not immediately identifiable, was present; plus the existence of movie-film clearly supporting the event. The case naturally justified such efforts and resulted in an 83pp case report.

Introduction The media in Leicestershire made many mentions of this event between October 24 and November 3 and the local groups at the time made considerable efforts to follow-up the witnesses before memory and this publicity could interfere. All verbal and written testimony was collated with 10 days; most within 5 days. Altogether some 67 independently reported sightings occurred between 18.00 and 23.46 on October 23 1978; 55 within the period 18.30 to 19.00. They span an area of 425 square miles from Euxton to Whitwick and Burton-on-Trent to Kibworth. But most are in either Leicester itself or the Hinckley/Euxton area. Despite efforts to discover them, no reports were made in neighbouring counties of Nottinghamshire & Lincolnshire. And so the stimulus for this incident was clearly very local. In June 1981 a follow-up questionnaire was sent to 55 principal witnesses to gauge their memory three years on. 35 replied, indicating the effect the sighting still had (normal questionnaire response rates are much lower than this). Almost all described the incident in very similar terms to their statements made within days of the event.

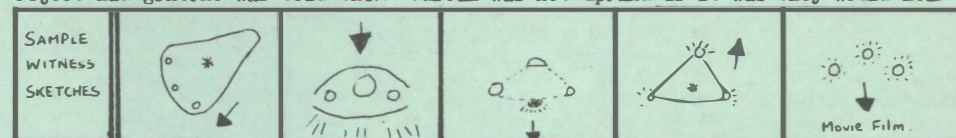
One or more UFO? With such a wealth of data one of the principal concerns of the investigators was to ascertain whether one or more object was involved. Some of the 126 witnesses from whom data was collected were clearly in error about the time. But it is hard to imagine that they all were. From a very detailed analysis of locations, observed directions etc (which takes up several pages in the report) it was generally agreed that the principal object (one only) moved very slowly across the area in a SSE to NNW path around 18.45; although as several of the alleged durations indicate visibility for 10 minutes or more the whole span of 18.30 to 19.00 could reflect accurate times dependant on whether the witness was north or south along the projected route. The fact that witnesses saw the object over a very large area might at first tend to suggest that the object was very high. In fact this can conclusively be shown not to be so. The cloud ceiling that night was 2500 feet, which tallies well with the statistically estimated height of 2000 feet (from witness data). The prominence of the object is regarded as a product of (a) its unusually brilliant lights and (b) its large size at low height. The later sightings are almost all in the Leicester area, to the east of the above projected flightpath. As these witnesses could not have had a good view of the main UFO it is regarded that these events (which are mostly of assorted lights) were misidentifications (eg of light planes) dragged into the data by the extensive media coverage for the primary event. The projected flightpath of the UFO is shown above. As virtually all the witnesses referred to slow speeds, many to hoverings etc, the object would appear to have been travelling rather slowly. This matches the facts as statistically calculable and a projected speed of just over 100 MPH seems in order.



The case of the silent vulcan cont...

Object description "I noticed three white lights travelling towards me. I thought at first it was an aeroplane going to land at Castle Donnington with landing lights on. As it got nearer the lights got very bright and formed a triangle. This in itself seemed an unusual formation. I slowed down to view it more safely and realised there were no other lights as on normal aircraft... as it got closer... I could see the shape as a black silhouette. It was like a Vulcan bomber, triangular and with a light on each point and large. The other strange thing was that I heard no noise at all. After it passed the lights were no longer visible... I have never seen the like before and that includes three years in the RAF when I saw aircraft night and day."

This description, from a witness almost underneath the flightpath near Cosby, is as close to the archetype as we can get from synthesising all reports. The main features recur again and again in them. Very occasionally a soft sound (humming, whining etc) was heard. Also other lights (especially a greenish/blue one) were commonly seen on the underside. There was virtually no exaggeration of an extreme kind and most witnesses seem to have faithfully reported the same thing. Only one case of close encounter effects from the primary object (that of a dog "whining and barking furiously" as the object passed over and stopping when it had gone) was collected. The Vulcan theory was proposed by many at first; Vulcans being seen in the area not infrequently. Indeed one witness called Biteswell (where one local Vulcan originates) immediately the object had gone. He was told their Vulcan was not up. And if it was they would hear it



Photographic Evidence

..... With so many witnesses to a prominent UFO, visible for many minutes and moving slowly, it is not surprising that several photographic efforts were made. Three separate films were obtained and processed by investigators. All contained at least one clear shot of the UFO. Unfortunately none of these came out; which is hardly unexpected since they were all 100 ASA daylight film in poor cameras.

However, one witness was successful. He was in the grounds of a school at Burbage (under the proposed flightpath). He belongs to a group which includes his wife, some children and the deputy headmaster (who teaches astronomy). It being in view 7 minutes Mr E had time to collect his Cine camera (a Bell & Howell type 674xl with an F1.3 8.5mm zoom). It contained daylight film, with an orange filter in place, and using this hand held at full zoom (24mm) he used up the last 30 seconds. The processed results, whilst inevitably faint, do show the object very clearly. For the first eight seconds only a yellow-white mass is visible, but this seems to approach the camera and then separate into three lights in a triangle. These continue to advance for 15 seconds and then the leading light (upper in the triangle) suddenly extinguishes, leaving the two base lights to approach for the seven seconds or so until film runs out.

The movie film is thus in excellent agreement with the witness testimony.

Is there an explanation? All civil airports ruled out the possibility of a solution and both Castle Donnington and Birmingham said their radar detected nothing unusual. The low height, lack of sound, and absence of navigation lights seems to rule out any form of lightplane, as does the excessive size very widely testified to by witnesses.

Obviously the Vulcan possibility was very thoroughly examined. None of the air bases operating Vulcans admitted to having one in flight and it was said that such flights over populated areas were not allowed. The Senior Air Traffic Controller at East Midlands airport (towards which the UFO was heading) was very helpful and quite puzzled. For him October 23 was a quiet night and no military manoeuvres were reported (as they would have to have been). He is also adamant that as the height must have been below 2500 feet there is no way a Vulcan (even fully throttled back) could be inaudible. It would have been heard above a TV set indoors. Checks on Vulcan lighting systems also do not agree with witness testimony. So the Vulcan theory seems unlikely.

All other hypothesis (space debris, airships, balloons) have been fully checked and proved negative. Something was there that night, and it is captured on movie-film. At the present moment it can only be classified a genuine UNKNOWN.

FINAL
WORD

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